

(b) the difference between the present support price and that fixed for mustard for the above said years;

(c) whether the mustard growers in Rajasthan had to face great difficulties during the last two years due to the attitude of Government and FAFED; and

(d) if so, what steps Government would like to take to do away with their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for mustard seeds on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). Under Price Support Scheme (PSS), Government purchases mustard seeds at the MSP through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED); the designated Government agency for the purpose. The MSP for mustard seeds fixed by the Government for the year 2006-07 is Rs. 1715 per quintal which is the same as it was for the year 2005-06. The MSP for 2006-07 is applicable for procurement of mustard seeds during the marketing year 2007-08.

(c) and (d) The ruling month-end wholesale prices of mustard seeds at Hindaun (Rajasthan) market has been in the range of Rs. 1385-1675 per quintal during the period from April 2005 to november 2006. Since the market prices have been less than the MSP, NAFED had undertaken procurement operations of mustard seeds in the State on a massive scale to avert the distress sales by the farmers.

During the last two years, Procurement of Mustard by NAFED was 20.93 lakh MTs in 2005-06 and 22.05 lakh MTs 2006-07. Of this, 14.04 lakh MTs and 14.18 lakh MTs. were procured from Rajasthan during these two years respectively.

Travelling in the name of the Members of Parliament

†*152. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of cases have come to the light during the last one year in which passengers were caught travelling in the name of the Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to formulate any scheme to check such frauds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some incident of irregular travel in the name of Members of Parliament have come to notice. Such cases are dealt with as per extant provisions of the Railways' Act, 1989 and railway dues realised from them. However, no separate statistics is maintained in this regard.

(c) and (d) Instructions exist to all reservation staff to be vigilant against fraudulent bookings on various passes and travel authorities including Identity Cards of Members of Parliament (MPs)/Ex. MPs and Rail Travel Coupons of Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs). Instructions also exist to ticket checking staff to keep a strict watch on the misuse of various travel authorities including those mentioend above.

Defective polio vaccine

***153. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it a fact that there is a continuous increase in the cases of polio in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of complaints regarding defective polio vaccine have been received against the Bharat Immunological and Biological Corporation, Bulandshahar, Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There has been significant progress in controlling spread of Wild Polio Viruls circulation in the Country since